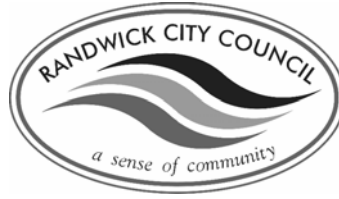


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INCORPORATED
AS A MUNICIPALITY
22 FEBRUARY 1859
PROCLAIMED AS
A CITY JULY 1990

6 March 2007

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANDWICK WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, 90 AVOCA STREET, RANDWICK ON TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH 2007 AT 5:30 PM

Committee Members: The Mayor, P. Tracey, Belleli, Hughes, Matson, Nash, Procopiadis (Deputy Chairperson), Woodsmith (Chairperson)

Quorum: Four (4) members.

NOTE: AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2004, THE COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE BE CONSTITUTED AS A COMMITTEE WITH FULL DELEGATION TO DETERMINE MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.

1 Apologies/Granting of leave of absences

2 Confirmation of the Minutes

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, 2007.

3 Declaration of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests

4 Addressing of Committee by Members of the Public

5 Urgent Business

6 Community Services

6.1 DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING REPORT 7/2007 - WELCOME OVERSEAS STUDENT PROGRAM - EVALUATION REPORT. 2

7 Confidential Items (Closed Session)

8 Notices of Rescission Motions

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GENERAL MANAGER.

Director, City Planning Report 7/2007



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|-----------------|--|
| SUBJECT: | WELCOME OVERSEAS STUDENT PROGRAM - EVALUATION REPORT |
|-----------------|--|

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| DATE: | 16 February, 2007 | FILE NO: | F2004/06290 |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION:

At the May 2006 Community Services Committee meeting, Council resolved that:

- a) Council note that the Welcome Overseas Student project has commenced as a pilot project for a six months period.
- b) Council authorise the General Manger to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Council; and
- c) If this trial is successful, Randwick Girls High School be incorporated into the program.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an evaluation of the Welcome Overseas Student Project which was completed in November 2006.

Council in collaboration with Randwick Boys High School and Australian Red Cross, undertook a six months pilot project to support recently arrived overseas students. The project was identified and endorsed by Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee. The purpose was to develop a mentoring program with volunteers provided by Australian Red Cross for newly arrived high school overseas students.

ISSUES:

The aims of the program were to:

- Provide volunteer mentors to offer assistance and support to students at Randwick Boys High School who have recently arrived in Australia;
- Assist the students to integrate into the local community and provide opportunities to expand their social networks;
- Have a responsible adult available to help the student with practical needs such as banking and postal services, and to access information about local sporting clubs, churches etc;
- To have a responsible adult that the student can relate to, confide in and to discuss options for their future.

Six volunteers were recruited and trained as mentors for the five students, however only two students completed the program. Each organisation carried out their own evaluation of the project and met to discuss the outcomes and recommendations.

There was general consensus by the three parties that the pilot project had provided a benefit to the participants. However, based on information and feedback provided by the students the program would need to refocus on social activities to meet the needs of the participants. It was recognised that recruiting and supporting volunteer mentors was problematic. For the size of the pilot project, the participating organisations noted that the requirements and support was costly and time consuming. Recruiting sufficient number of suitable volunteers to be mentors for the program was also very difficult.

The three project partners, Randwick City Council, Australian Red Cross and Randwick Boys High School considered that it would be useful to develop other projects for future partnerships and for youth activities in the area.

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY PLAN:

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome: A vibrant and diverse community
Direction 2b: Enrich our range of community services that meet our community's needs
Key Action: Celebrate the range of cultures and people within Randwick City

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Council had approved a budget for the project of \$3,500 from the Contingency Fund. Total expenditure for the project was \$2,400.

CONCLUSION:

The project provided valuable training and experience for the mentors and built on the relationship between Council, Australian Red Cross and Randwick Boys High School. All parties involved in the project found the project to be a worthwhile exercise in identifying the many child protection and insurance issues associated with this type of program. The students enjoyed the activities and formed ongoing relationships with their mentors. However the three parties agreed that the continuation of the project could not be justified.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

- a) the evaluation report of the Welcome Overseas Student Project be noted.
- b) at this stage, Council not proceed with the Welcome Overseas Student Program at Randwick Girls High School.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

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SIMA TRUUVERT
DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

.....
COLIN ROSENFELD
COMMUNITY PROJECT OFFICER
MULTICULTURAL & SPECIAL
PROJECTS

Confidential Items (Closed Session)

Notices of Rescission Motions